



# **Parliament and Community Road Safety**

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# Overview

- Strengths of parliamentary committees
- Overview of reformed committee system
- Example of previous road safety inquiry
- Becoming involved

# What is a Parliamentary Committee?



- Group of Members of Parliament delegated a role by the Parliament
- All party membership
- Established by Acts of Parliament, Standing Orders, or resolution of the Legislative Assembly

# What do Committees do?



- Examine and report on legislative proposals, proposed expenditure (estimates), public accounts and public works
- Conduct inquiries into matters of public importance and report findings to the Parliament
- Monitor and report on independent statutory offices
- Deal with matters referred by the Assembly

# Benefits of Parliamentary Committees



- Better informed Parliament
- Accountable government
- Enhancing the democratic process
- Additional mechanism to deal with complaints
- Influence public policy
- Skilled backbenchers





# **New Committee System**

**Committee of the  
Legislative Assembly**

**Parliamentary Crime and  
Misconduct Committee**

**Ethics Committee**

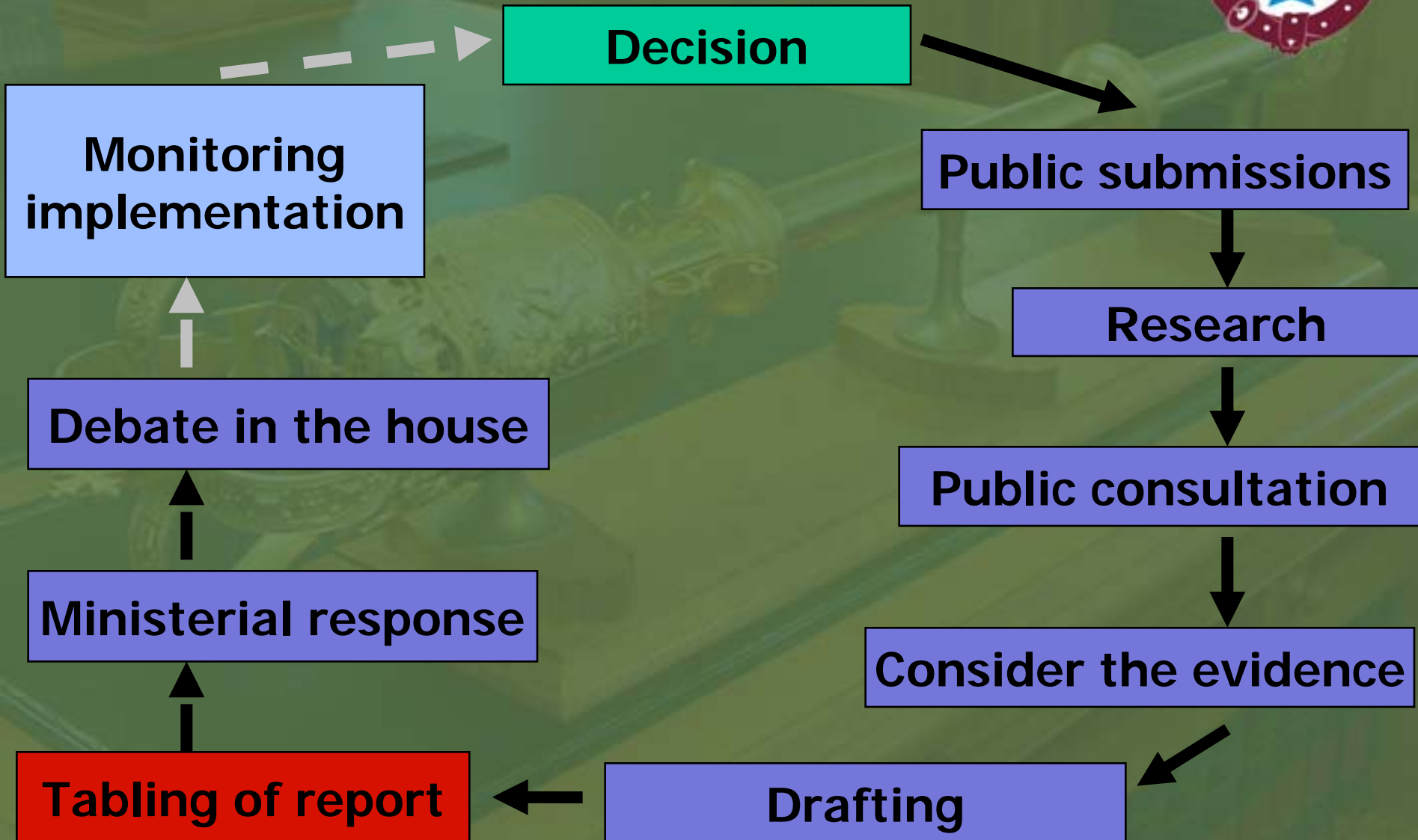
**Seven Portfolio Committees**

# **Transport, Local Government and Infrastructure Committee**



- Transport
- Main Roads
- Marine Infrastructure
- Infrastructure
- Local Government
- Building Industry

# Inquiry Process







# Young driver and rider inquiries

- Focus on young driver and rider issues
- Consulted with stakeholders
- Two reports that made 33 recommendations between them
- Reports tabled in Parliament December 2003
- Government responded March 2004



# Post-inquiry

- Government supported or partially supported a number of recommendations
- Government undertook further consultation
- Introduced the Transport Legislation and Another Act Amendment Bill in November 2006



# Evidence of committee influence

- Almost 1/3 of members mentioned the inquiries during their second reading speech
- Acknowledgement of the then Minister for Transport
- Acknowledgement of other members



# Becoming involved

- Sign up to committee email list
- Make submissions
- Responding to requests for information
- Appearing as witnesses at hearings (invitation only)

# How can my involvement be more effective?



- Develop an understanding of parliamentary committees
- Consider the jurisdictional implications of your suggestions
- Recognise committee members have diverse backgrounds
- Develop a good relationship with committee staff



# Further information & Questions



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